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ACTION HA-05

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R 301928Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5880

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 4123

H PASS HONORABLE EDWARD M. KENNEDY
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON DC

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: DETAINMENT OF ARGENTINE PRIESTS - JOHN FRANCO
TESTA (103/77/9)

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1856

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY REGARDING FATHER JOHN FRANCO
TESTA, WE INFORMED YOU BY CABLE ON MARCH 14 THAT FATHER
TESTA'S EXECUTIVE DETENTION WAS RESCINDED BY PRE-
SIDENTIAL DECREE 568 OF MARCH 8, 1978.

2. WE INITIATED A FURTHER INQUIRY WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE
WORKING GROUP REGARDING THE CRIMINAL CHARGES PENDING AGAINST
HIM AND HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT FATHER TESTA WAS SENTENCED TO
A SEVEN YEAR PRISON TERM BY THE FEDERAL JUDGE OF CHACO PROVIN-
CE. HIS SENTENCE WILL END ON APRIL 15, 1981.

3. SINCERELY YOURS, RAUL CASTRO, AMBASSADOR.
CASTRO

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